

MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

March 24, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Ron Fulton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, at 1:45 pm. Introductions were done. Agenda was accepted and minutes for February 2010 were accepted with grammatical corrections.

**Attendance:** R. Fulton, J. Granda, A. Rigerman, D. Valkema, J. Martinez, M. Olivera, S. Kohlenberg, M. Schmidt, J. David, J. Miller

**New Business:** Mr. Thompson from the Miami-Dade Committee on Ethics gave a Ethics training to CODI members. He explained the Sunshine Law. It is a violation of the Sunshine laws to have CODI members talk to each other about an issue that will be brought in front of CODI for a vote unless the meeting is advertised and open to the public, and notes taken. He also said that it is very important to remember emails and phone calls are also under the Sunshine Law. He talked about Conflict of Interest, Public Record and Representing a third party. There were questions asked and answered.

**Elections:** Dr. Kohlenberg read the slate recommended by the Nominating Committee. Chair: Ronald Fulton, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair Jose Martinez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair Jackson David, Secretary Denise Valkema. Nominations were opened from the floor. Mr. Rigerman nominated himself and Jose Martinez was nominated by Jackson David. After speaking about why he wanted to be Chair and various issues he felt strongly about, Mr. Rigerman withdrew his name. Both Mr. Fulton and Mr. Martinez had the opportunity to say why they wanted to be Chair. CODI members were asked to first vote for Jose Martinez: Dr. Olivera- yes; A. Rigerman yes; J. Miller no; D. Valkema no; M. Schmidt yes; J. David yes; Dr. Kohlenberg no; J. Granda yes. A vote was taken for Ronald Fulton. Mr. Martinez was voted in as the next Chairman. There was a **motion made by Alan Rigerman and seconded by Dr. Manoel Olivera to nominate Ronald Fulton as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair. Motion was passed. Marie Schmidt made a motion and it was seconded by John Miller to nominate Jackson David as the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair. This motion was passed by acclamation. A motion was made by John Miller and seconded by Jose Martinez to nominate Denise Valkema as Secretary. This motion was passed by acclamation.**

It was decided to allow Mr. Fulton to continue with running the meeting.

Mr. David New was introduced. He spoke about the ability Explosion the Miami Beach Access Committee is planning. It will be a week- long event culminating in a Gala on October 23, 2010. People can go to: [www: abilityexplosion.org](http://www.abilityexplosion.org) for more information.

Heidi Johnson-Wright spoke to CODI about website access. The ADA Office is about ready to send out an RFQ for a consultant to work with the County on web access especially with screen readers used by people who are blind. She also mentioned that Agenda items, especially memos should be more easily read by screen readers. Maps and some technical charts maybe more problematic but if people with a disability can't access information they might need they can call the office of the department sponsoring the item. She then reported that the Office of ADA has had a intern from FIU sponsored through the Phoenix program which allows students with disabilities to have an unpaid internship. The office had been very pleased with the intern and hopes we will get another inter next semester.

**Transportation Committee:** Denise Valkema, Chair of the Transportation Committee, gave an over view of issues brought up at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. A letter was issued by Transit to remind the security companies that guard the Metro-Rail that those officers must not leave their post to take a person up to the platform or into a rail car. Joe Mora from Consumer Services was there to speak about incidences where Taxis were not picking up people who use guide dogs. The Committee recommended to CODI stiffer penalties. **A motion was made by Denise Valkema and seconded by Jose Martinez to recommend to Consumer Service that: 1<sup>st</sup> refusal: \$500 fine with a 2 month suspension, 2<sup>nd</sup> refusal \$750 fine with a 4 month suspension, 3<sup>rd</sup> refusal with a \$1000 fine and a year suspension. This will not be a 12 month but a 24 month period. If a driver has been shown to have a pattern of refusals in any 6 year period, Consumer Services has the right to revoke their license. Motion passed unanimously.** She expects to have a meeting in April.

**Housing Committee:** A date of April 9 was given but a few members said they couldn't come.

Ilene Hyams said that anyone wanted the minutes from the committee meetings only need to contact her.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00.